

9-25-06

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Atty. Dkt. No. 4361-100

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Stephen Heslip  
Title: STRINGED MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENT LEARNING AID  
AND METHODS  
Appl. No.: 10/624,846  
Filing Date: July 22, 2003  
Examiner: Joe H. Cheng  
Art Unit: 3713

<b>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING</b>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
EV 919977614 US (Express Mail Label Number)	09/22/06 (Date of Deposit)
Bernard L. Kleinke (Printed Name)	
 (Signature)	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 TRANSMITTAL**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing are:

- ☒ Return Receipt postcard
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR § 1.56
- ☒ Form PTO/SB/08A with listed reference
- ☒ Supplementary European Search Report
- ☒ Credit Card Payment Form

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE  
ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES**

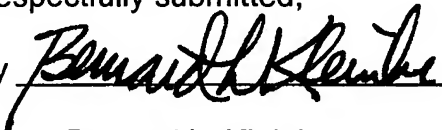
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required either now or in the future regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to the Deposit Account No. 502635 of DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER & WYNNE. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to the Deposit Account No. 502635 of DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER & WYNNE. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the foregoing, concurrent or future communication (including, but not limited to, the payment of an extension fee or issue fees), or if any overpayment is to be refunded in connection with the above-identified application, any such charges or fees, or any such overpayment may be respectfully paid out of, or into, the Deposit Account No. 502635 of DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER & WYNNE. If any such payment also requires a petition or extension request, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary petition or request, which is required to accompany the payment.

Date: September 22, 2006

DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER & WYNNE  
A Law Corporation  
401 West A Street, Suite 2400  
San Diego, California 92101-7915

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Respectfully submitted,

By 


Bernard L. Kleinke  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 22,123



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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08A is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present Application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present Application.

09/25/2006 HLE333 00000079 10624846  
01 FC:1806 180.00 OP

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Any document listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding foreign application. A copy of the Supplementary European Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests that any list of documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initial copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office and counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing this statement.

**PETITION AND FEE**

It is hereby respectfully petitioned that the documents listed on the attached form PTO/SB08A be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record. A petition fee in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.17(p) is attached.

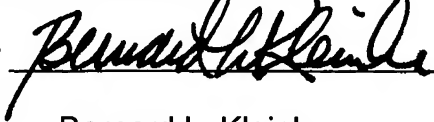
Applicant submits herewith on PTO/SB/08A a listing of the documents cited by European Patent Office.

Date: September 22, 2006

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Bernard L. Kleinke  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 22,123

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE  
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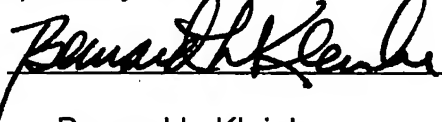
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required either now or in the future regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to the Deposit Account No. 502635 of DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER & WYNNE. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to the Deposit Account No. 502635 of DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER & WYNNE. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the foregoing, concurrent or future communication (including, but not limited to, the payment of an extension fee or issue fees), or if any overpayment is to be refunded in connection with the above-identified application, any such charges or fees, or any such overpayment may be respectfully paid out of, or into, the Deposit Account No. 502635 of DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER & WYNNE. If any such payment also requires a petition or extension request, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary petition or request, which is required to accompany the payment.

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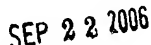
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Respectfully submitted,

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Bernard L. Kleinke  
Attorney for Applicant  
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Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of	1
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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/624,846
Filing Date	July 22, 2003
First Named Inventor	Stephen Heslip
Art Unit	3713
Examiner Name	Joe H. Cheng
Attorney Docket Number	4361-100

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>2</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>3</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>4</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>5</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>6</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>7</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

**If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.**